

Welcome to the December Edition of the BioSense Bulletin

November and December were busy months for outreach efforts and data source implementations. BioSense enjoyed visibility at several major meetings. A poster on BioSense was presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting, the program sponsored a panel at the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) conference, and Dr. Barry Rhodes provided a presentation at the National Association of Health Data Organizations' (NAHDO) annual meeting. We hope those who attended APHA, AMIA, and NAHDO found these activities informative and helpful. In addition, BioSense brought many key stakeholders in Ohio together in a forum for collaboration and feedback.

In December, Indiana became the first state syndromic surveillance system to go live as a data source while Ohio and Missouri went live late in the month all contributing to BioSense becoming a system of systems.

In an effort to provide you with important information in the most useful and efficient way, the BioSense Bulletin is going bi-monthly! The next issue will be available at the beginning of February.

The BioSense team continues to look for more opportunities to engage our stakeholders. Please share your ideas with us.

BIOSTATS

LATE BREAKING NEWS – With the addition of the Indiana, Missouri and Ohio state syndromic surveillance systems connecting to BioSense, we have reached a total of 349 hospitals with data available in real time through BioSense as of December 29, 2006. We aren't stopping there! Implementations and recruitment continues into 2007. We expect more implementations as early as mid-January.

BioBytes

BioSense Poster at APHA

The poster presented at APHA provided an overview of BioSense, recent changes to the analytics behind the application, and a discussion of current uses and future capabilities. The authors of the poster included Lynn Steele, MS, Nelson Arboleda MD, MPH, and Jerome I. Tokars, MD all from the CDC's National Center for Public Health Informatics. Priscilla Golden from the Constella Group, a CDC contractor, presented the poster at APHA on behalf of the authors. The information was well-received with most questions relating to the analytics methods. A PDF of the poster presented at APHA is available on the BioSense webpage (www.cdc.gov/biosense/presentations.htm).



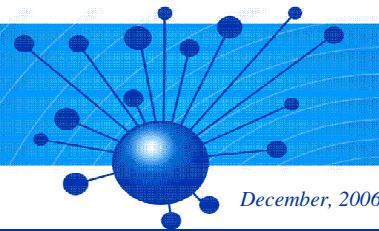
Priscilla Golden with the BioSense poster at APHA.

Webpage Usability Testing

In an effort to ensure that the BioSense webpage is as useful and easy to use as possible, usability testing by some of our key stakeholders is currently underway. Feedback from testing may result in changes to the webpage in the near future. Additional rounds of testing will be carried out to ensure changes to the webpage improve usability as expected. If you would like to volunteer for the next round of usability testing, please e-mail biosenseusers@cdc.gov

Centers of Excellence in Public Health Informatics

CDC demonstrated a continued dedication to the improvement of public health through the advancement of health informatics by awarding \$3.7 million to fund three new **Centers for Excellence in Public Health Informatics**. The three new centers are located at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the University of Utah. These centers will focus on various aspects of enhancing informatics linkages between healthcare and public health to improve detection and response of emerging public health threats. Dr. Steve Solomon, Director of the Coordinating Center for Health Information and Service at CDC believes "BioSense....can benefit greatly from the work of these Centers of Excellence."



BioBytes cont.

Ohio Partnership Meeting

On November 17th, Ohio users were brought together at the offices of the Columbus Health Department to discuss biosurveillance in Ohio. Participants included Ohio state and local public health officials, staff from participating hospitals and potential data sources as well as CDC stakeholders. Topics of discussion included differing needs of public health and hospital users, how BioSense can work best with Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs), making alerts more meaningful and actionable, and how to potentially bridge biosurveillance systems with mandatory reporting of reportable events in the future.

CONTACT US

Please use this [email](#) to contact us if you have any comments or questions regarding the BioSense Bulletin.

BioSolutions

Do you need to refer to a previous BioSense Bulletin or would you like to find notes from the Real Time/Real Talk teleconference? Visit the BioSense webpage and see our new communications page <http://www.cdc.gov/biosense/communications.htm>. All communication materials will be housed on one page for easy access to information.

Have a resource to share or a question that you think everyone would benefit from knowing the answer? Submit it and we will share it. Mail to: biosenseusers@cdc.gov.

BioSpotlight

AMIA Panel

A panel discussion titled, *The BioSense Real-Time Initiative: Improving the Nation's Emergency Preparedness*, was held at the AMIA conference in Washington, DC on November 15th. Lynn Steele, Director of the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response (DEPR), moderated the panel. Participants included Dr. Barry Rhodes, David Groves, Paul Biedrzycki and Mike Trebatoski.

Dr. Barry Rhodes, Deputy Director of DEPR, discussed the architecture of BioSense in addition to data warehousing. David Groves, VP for Public Health Informatics with SAIC, a contractor with CDC, was on hand to speak to the data acquisition strategy including CDC data standards, data source recruitment and implementation of real-time clinical data streams on a national scale. Paul Biedrzycki, City of Milwaukee Health Department and Mike Trebatoski, formerly with Aurora HealthCare spoke from the public health and hospital perspective about the implementation and participation in BioSense, including what worked and suggestions for improvement going forward.

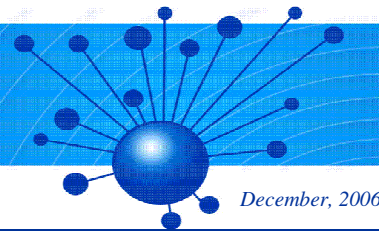


Lynn Steele introduces the panel at AMIA.



Paul Biedrzycki and Mike Trebatoski confer before the AMIA panel discussion.





BioSchedule

- **BioSense Training and Orientation Sessions**

- January 8, 2006 1:00pm – 2:30pm EST

URL to attend live meeting:

<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join?id=26NXW2&role=attend&pw=h%3BC%3A%3A8Z%5Bw>

- January 22, 2006 1:00pm– 2:30pm EST

URL to attend live meeting:

<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join?id=7RHJM3&role=attend&pw=r6%3C%27z%2B%7E%5CN>

Call-in information for both training sessions:

Audio Conferencing (Toll-free): +1 (866) 756-5589

Participant Code: 2229244

- **Real Time/Real Talk Teleconference**

- Friday, January 26, 2007 1:00pm – 2:00pm EST

Call-in Number: +1 (888) 989-6497

Passcode: biosense

- **Topical Work Groups**

- **Application Functionality**

To be scheduled for early 2007

If you would like to join this workgroup please email biosenseusers@cdc.gov.

- **Upcoming Conferences and Submission Deadlines**

- **NSF BioSurveillance Workshop**

(<http://ai.arizona.edu/BIO2007/>)

New Brunswick, NJ

May 22, 2007

- Paper submission deadline: **January 30, 2007**

- Notification to authors: February 20, 2007

- **Public Health Preparedness Summit**

Washington, DC at the Hilton Washington

February 19 – 23, 2007

*The BioSense sponsored break-out session will be held on February 23rd

- **HIMSS Annual Conference**

New Orleans at the Ernest N Morial Convention Center

February 25 – March 1, 2007

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If you do not wish to receive this email, please [click here](#) and you will be unsubscribed from the list.

